

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02559 261410Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /026 W
-----270232Z 055555 /66
R 261333Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4158

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2559

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, ETRN, LE
SUBJECT: REMARKS OF ELIE CHAYA ON RECONSTRUCTION

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON ELIE CHAYA, PRESIDENT OF GOL'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR MAJOR PROJECTS ON MAY 23. GHAYA SAID LEBANON NEEDED A COMPREHENSIVE OVERALL PLAN FOR COUNTRYWIDE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, INCLUDING PORTS, HIGHWAYS, AND RAILROADS. FRENCH CONSULTING FIRM HAD ALREADY CALLED ON HIM AND PROPOSED TO PREPARE SUCH A PLAN. CHAYA HAD TOLD FIRM TO MAKE A CONCRETE OFFER, WHICH IT HAD NOT YET DONE.

2. CHAYA BEMOANED FACT THAT NO US FIRM HAS SHOWN ANY INTEREST IN PREPARING SUCH A PLAN. STRESSING HE WAS EXPRESSING PERSONAL RATHER THAN OFFICIAL GOL VIEWS, CHAYA ESTIMATED THAT SUCH A PLAN WOULD COST \$2 MILLION AND THAT GOL WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY HALF. HE HOPED USG MIGHT BE WILLING FINANCE DIFFERENCE. CHAYA REMARKED THAT PREPARATION OF SUCH A PLAN BY AMERICAN COMPANY WOULD PROVIDE GOOD ENTREE FOR AMERICAN FIRMS.

3. CHAYA CRITICIZED THE MASTER PLAN DRAWN UP BY FRENCH FOR CENTER CITY BEIRUT. HE SAID PLAN WAS ONLY "SCHEMATIC," COVERED ONLY ONE SQUARE KILOMETER OF CENTER CITY, AND WOULD INVOLVE EXORBITANT CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF LL4 BILLION WHICH LEBANON COULD NOT MEET. DESPITE SOME OPPOSITION IN GOVERNMENT, CHAYA NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED
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THIS PLAN TO BE ADOPTED OFFICIALLY NEXT MONTH. HE SAID PLAN HAD COST FRENCH ESTIMATED LL600,000 TO PREPARE, BUT THEY PRESENTED IT FREE OF CHARGE TO LEBANON.
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), URBAN TRANSPORTATION, RAIL TRANSPORTATION, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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